

# Girls' education in **PAKISTAN**



**22.8**  
MILLION

children are  
out of school  
in Pakistan

**#2**

The second highest  
number of any  
country in the world<sup>1</sup>.

## in Pakistan



MORE THAN

**50%**

of out-of-school  
children are **GIRLS**<sup>2</sup>.



LESS THAN

**1/3**

of all eligible girls  
are enrolled in upper  
secondary school<sup>3</sup>.



TWO-THIRDS

**2/3**

of the poorest **girls aged  
between 7 and 12** have never  
set foot inside a classroom<sup>4</sup>.

Of all boys and girls aged 5–16 in Pakistan<sup>5</sup>:



**43%**

BOYS



**36%**

GIRLS

are able to **read a sentence**  
in Urdu, Sindhi and Pashto.



**40%**

BOYS



**33%**

GIRLS

are able to **read words**  
in English.



**44%**

BOYS



**36%**

GIRLS

are able to do  
**subtraction in arithmetic.**





## 12 years of quality education

Pakistan's Right to Education Act 2012 guarantees every child aged 5 to 16 the right to a free and compulsory education. However, the act is not implemented — and girls are left without the education they need to build a better future for their families, communities and country.

Pakistan's education system is also critically under-resourced. The 2017 National Education Plan recognised the low levels of investment in public education and set a target to allocate 4% of GDP and 25% of the national budget for education. However, currently just 2.7%<sup>6</sup> of GDP is allocated to education. There remains no specific strategy to improve girls' access to education.

### The government is conducting an education policy review.

As part of the review, we are calling for:

- A commitment to *allocate 4–6% of GDP or 20% of annual budgets to education.*
- Enforcement of the right to a *full cycle of 12 years free schooling.*
- A new National Education Plan to be agreed in consultation with provinces through an *all-party joint ministerial conference.* The plan will guide all provincial education sector plans.
- Inclusion of non-discrimination and equality principles in the National Education Plan — including specific *targeted strategies for girls' inclusion* as well as indicators to measure progress.
- Creation of a *Girls' Education Task Force* to address the low rate of girls' participation at the secondary level and oversee new strategies — including an investment plan for new girls' middle and secondary schools.

### The benefits of educating all girls for 12 years:



**SAFER**

- Doubling the percentage of students finishing secondary school could cut the risk of conflict in half<sup>7</sup>.
- Girls' education reduces a country's vulnerability to natural disasters and is one of the most cost-effective strategies to tackle climate change<sup>8</sup>.



**HEALTHIER**

- Just one additional year of education for girls decreases the infant mortality rate by up to 10%<sup>9</sup>.
- If all girls complete their secondary education, child deaths could reduce by 49%<sup>10</sup>.



**WEALTHIER**

- If every girl around the world received 12 years of free, safe, quality education, lifetime earnings for women could increase by up to **\$30 trillion**<sup>11</sup>.
- Women with secondary school education earn almost **twice as much** as those with no education at all<sup>12</sup>.

### References

1. UNESCO (2012) Global Monitoring Report 2012 <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002180/218003e.pdf>
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12. Ibid

# Girls' education in **BALUCHISTAN**



**1.9**  
MILLION

children in  
**Balochistan** are  
out of school<sup>1</sup>.

in **Balochistan**



MORE THAN  
HALF  
**51%**

of out-of-school  
children are  
**GIRLS**<sup>2</sup>.



**1.3**  
MILLION

children are missing  
out on middle or  
secondary education<sup>3</sup>.

There are



**11,627**  
primary schools

and just **42 higher  
secondary schools**<sup>4</sup>.

Of all boys and girls aged 5–16 in Balochistan<sup>5</sup>:



**32%**  
BOYS



**16%**  
GIRLS

are able to read a  
sentence in Urdu.



**30%**  
BOYS



**15%**  
GIRLS

are able to read words  
in English.



**32%**  
BOYS



**15%**  
GIRLS

are able to do  
subtraction in arithmetic.



## Overview

Since 2013, Balochistan has made some progress in curtailing teacher absenteeism, identifying ghost schools and partially addressing the inequality between the numbers of primary schools and the number of middle and high schools. Between 2011–2012 and 2016–17, the budget for education rose from Rs. 22.66 billion to Rs. 48.61 billion. However, significant challenges remain.

While the recurrent budget for expenses such as teacher salaries and learning materials has risen each year, the development budget for infrastructure, missing facilities and teaching materials has declined. The current education development budget stands at Rs. 6.44 billion against a recurrent budget of Rs. 42.18 billion. Balochistan has also consistently allocated significantly less to education than all other provinces. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has the second-lowest education budget — but at Rs. 123.07 billion for 2016–17, it dwarfs the Rs. 48.61 billion allocated in Balochistan.

### We are calling for the government of Balochistan to:

- **Allocate 20%** of the provincial budget to education.
- Adopt a **funding formula for all government schools** that replaces the existing mechanism of fixed or centralised allocation of non-salary grants for schools.
- **Ensure an even division of recurrent budget between salary and non-salary expenses**, such as the procurement and provision of learning and teaching materials for teachers
- Fund a plan for rapid infrastructure development to either **upgrade existing primary schools or build new middle and high schools**.
- Set the minimum age of marriage to 18 for girls and implement the law to **eliminate child marriages**.

### The benefits of educating all girls for 12 years:



SAFER

- Doubling the percentage of students finishing secondary school could cut the risk of conflict in half<sup>6</sup>.
- Girls' education reduces a country's vulnerability to natural disasters and is one of the most cost-effective strategies to tackle climate change<sup>7</sup>.



HEALTHIER

- Just one additional year of education for girls decreases the infant mortality rate by up to 10%<sup>8</sup>.
- If all girls complete their secondary education, child deaths could reduce by 49%<sup>9</sup>.



WEALTHIER

- If every girl around the world received 12 years of free, safe, quality education, lifetime earnings for women could increase by up to \$30 trillion<sup>10</sup>.
- Women with secondary school education earn almost twice as much as those with no education at all<sup>11</sup>.

## References

1. National Education Management Information System (NEMIS) and Academy of Educational Planning and Management (AEPAM) (2018) Pakistan Education Statistics 2016–17 Report.
2. Ibid.
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11. Ibid.

# Girls' education in **KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA**



**2.4**  
MILLION

children in **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)** are out of school<sup>1</sup>.

## in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



MORE THAN  
TWO-THIRDS  
**68%**

of out-of-school children are **GIRLS**<sup>2</sup>.



**02**  
MILLION

children are missing out on middle or secondary education<sup>3</sup>.



**22,179**

primary schools and just **539 higher secondary schools**<sup>4</sup>.

Of all boys and girls aged 5–16 in KP<sup>5</sup>:



**46%**  
BOYS



**36%**  
GIRLS

are able to read a sentence in Urdu or Pashto.



**45%**  
BOYS



**34%**  
GIRLS

are able to read words in English.



**49%**  
BOYS



**37%**  
GIRLS

are able to do subtraction in arithmetic.



## Overview

Since 2008, governments in KP have made efforts to improve school facilities and infrastructure, increase budgets and invest in teachers. During the last five years, KP is the only province that has regularly allocated more than 20% of total budgets to education. In 2011–2012 the total allocation for education stood at Rs. 63.17 billion. This increased to Rs. 123.07 billion in 2016–17. However, substantial challenges remain.

The province continues to struggle to make education more accessible for girls and to ensure students have the opportunity to pursue education beyond the primary level. Budget increase has largely fed into recurrent and salary-related costs rather than towards development and the construction of new schools.

### We are calling on the KP government to:

- Adopt a *funding formula for all government schools* that replaces the existing mechanism of fixed or centralised allocation of non-salary grants.
- Ensure an *even division of recurrent budget between salary and non-salary expenses*, such as the procurement and provision of learning and teaching materials for teachers.
- *Increase investment in teachers' training*, learning and teaching aids.
- Focus on innovative *modern teaching methodologies* to *improve learning outcomes*.
- Introduce a strategy to *upgrade existing primary schools* and/or *construct new middle and high schools* to enable access to education beyond primary level.

### The benefits of educating all girls for 12 years:



SAFER

- Doubling the percentage of students finishing secondary school could cut the risk of conflict in half<sup>6</sup>.
- Girls' education reduces a country's vulnerability to natural disasters and is one of the most cost-effective strategies to tackle climate change<sup>7</sup>.



HEALTHIER

- Just one additional year of education for girls decreases the infant mortality rate by up to 10%<sup>8</sup>.
- If all girls complete their secondary education, child deaths could reduce by 49%<sup>9</sup>.



WEALTHIER

- If every girl around the world received 12 years of free, safe, quality education, lifetime earnings for women could increase by up to \$30 trillion<sup>10</sup>.
- Women with secondary school education earn almost twice as much as those with no education at all<sup>11</sup>.

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11. Ibid

# Girls' education in **PUNJAB**



**10.5**  
MILLION

children in  
**Punjab** are out  
of school<sup>1</sup>.

which accounts for more than half of  
all Pakistan's out-of-school children.

in Punjab



**HALF**

of out-of-school  
children are  
**GIRLS**<sup>2</sup>.



**08**  
MILLION

children are missing  
out on middle or  
secondary education<sup>3</sup>.

There are



**36,990**

primary schools

and just **680 higher  
secondary schools**<sup>4</sup>.

Of all boys and girls aged 5–16 in Punjab<sup>5</sup>:



**51%**  
BOYS



**48%**  
GIRLS

are able to read at least a  
sentence in Urdu.



**47%**  
BOYS



**44%**  
GIRLS

are able to read words  
in English.



**51%**  
BOYS



**48%**  
GIRLS

are able to do  
subtraction in arithmetic.



## Overview

Since 2003, Punjab has made significant efforts to reform school infrastructure, teachers' management and overall education sector governance. Yet given the scale of the problem in the province, the need for a renewed focus and increased resourcing is urgent. The provincial government is currently conducting an education policy review.

The 2011 Punjab Education Policy estimated that Rs. 3387 billion would be required in order to achieve 98% enrolment rate of all children aged 5–16 years by 2024–25. While education budgets have increased since 2011, they fall far short of the required levels currently standing at Rs. 296.19 billion for 2016–17<sup>6</sup>.

### We are calling for the government of Punjab to:

- Commit to a 20% increase in the provincial education budget each year.
- Ensure more education *development funds* are allocated at the district level to respond better to local needs.
- Increase the number of girls' secondary schools.
- Introduce a girls' education strategy focused on *increasing the enrolment and retention of girls, improving the quality of secondary education* for girls and *addressing missing facilities*.
- Bring forward reforms which *build the capacity of teachers* and introduce new methodologies to *improve learning outcomes*.
- Adopt a Punjab Ministry for Information campaign to *address the social barriers that prevent girls from attending secondary education*.

### The benefits of educating all girls for 12 years:



SAFER

- Doubling the percentage of students finishing secondary school could cut the risk of conflict in half<sup>7</sup>.
- Girls' education reduces a country's vulnerability to natural disasters and is one of the most cost-effective strategies to tackle climate change<sup>8</sup>.



HEALTHIER

- Just one additional year of education for girls decreases the infant mortality rate by up to 10%<sup>9</sup>.
- If all girls complete their secondary education, child deaths could reduce by 49%<sup>10</sup>.



WEALTHIER

- If every girl around the world received 12 years of free, safe, quality education, lifetime earnings for women could increase by up to **\$30 trillion**<sup>11</sup>.
- Women with secondary school education earn almost **twice as** much as those with no education at all<sup>12</sup>.

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12. Ibid.

# Girls' education in **SINDH**



**6.4**  
MILLION children in Sindh  
are out of school<sup>1</sup>.

in Sindh



MORE THAN  
**HALF**  
of out-of-school  
children are  
**GIRLS**<sup>2</sup>.



**4.8**  
MILLION  
are missing out on  
middle or secondary  
education<sup>3</sup>.

There are  
**38,132**  
primary schools  
and just **291 higher  
secondary schools**<sup>4</sup>.

Of all boys and girls aged 5–16 in Sindh<sup>5</sup>:

**34%**  
BOYS

**25%**  
GIRLS

are able to read a sentence  
in Urdu and Sindhi.

**26%**  
BOYS

**19%**  
GIRLS

are able to read words  
in English.

**32%**  
BOYS

**24%**  
GIRLS

are able to do  
subtraction in arithmetic.



## Overview

Though Sindh's Education Sector Plan (ESP) commits to improving equity, access, quality, accountability and financing in the province, there has been little progress for girls. While the total education budget in Sindh increased by 39% between 2014–15 and 2017–18<sup>6</sup>, there has not been a significant accompanying increase in school enrolment numbers. Lack of secondary schools means dropout rates remain high.

Most of Sindh's education budget is currently allocated to recurring expenses such as teachers' salaries, which leaves little room for capital investment in infrastructure. Financial inefficiency and governance issues mean funds are not released on time and often remain unused at the district and school level. For the year 2015–2016, Rs. 134 billion of the allocated Rs. 148 billion were spent<sup>7</sup>.

### We are calling on the Sindh government to:

- Reform education sector policies to *rectify the balance between recurrent and development budgets*, and ensure *optimal utilisation of the development budget*.
- Establish *equitable spending mechanisms* which target out-of-school children — especially girls — and support the disadvantage through weighted funding.
- Scrutinise budget proposals and spending for their impact on girls through a new mechanism, *gender and inclusion audits*.
- Ensure planning and *budgeting processes are transparent* and open to civil society organisations by participating in official government partner groups, like local education groups.

### The benefits of educating all girls for 12 years:



SAFER

- Doubling the percentage of students finishing secondary school could cut the risk of conflict in half<sup>8</sup>.
- Girls' education reduces a country's vulnerability to natural disasters and is one of the most cost-effective strategies to tackle climate change<sup>9</sup>.



HEALTHIER

- Just one additional year of education for girls decreases the infant mortality rate by up to 10%<sup>10</sup>.
- If all girls complete their secondary education, child deaths could reduce by 49%<sup>11</sup>.



WEALTHIER

- If every girl around the world received 12 years of free, safe, quality education, lifetime earnings for women could increase by up to \$30 trillion<sup>12</sup>.
- Women with secondary school education earn almost twice as much as those with no education at all<sup>13</sup>.

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